DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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NEUTRAL GERMANY?

By the Editor

Quite a new proposal for reducing tension in Germany and Europe has come out of the Berlin Conference. It is the proposal that occupation troops should be withdrawn forthwith from East and West Germany, and that the four powers should determine the strength and the armament of the police forces permitted in both parts of Germany.

This proposal, details of which are given on page 26 of this issue, was made by Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov after the western Foreign Ministers had consistently rejected all his proposals for a peace treaty with Germany, for an all-German Government, for elections, and so on.

The proposal for the immediate withdrawal of occupation troops is not intended as an alternative to the reunification, of course; it is intended as a very simple step to reduce tension while discussions on reunification continue, both between the people of the two halves of Germany, and the governments of the great powers.

The practical effects of this step would be:

1. No new Wehrmacht could be raised to threaten Europe.

2. Tens of thousands of British, French, U. S. and Soviet soldiers would be able to go home instead of continuing a distasteful job as occupation troops.

3. Germany would be freed of foreign occupation.

4. The whole of Europe would be given a breathing space in which to work out a real security pact for the whole continent.

ISN'T IT WORTH TRYING?

East German Factory Wages Up 9%

The wages of workers in nationally owned industry in East Germany rose by an average of 9% during 1953, and prices steadily sank during the year, final figures on 1953 plan fulfillment published in Berlin show.

Wage rates rose even more in nationally owned agriculture, where workers got 116 marks in 1953 for every 100 they had earned in 1952.

The plan report showed that industrial production rose 12% during 1953, and at the end of the year had reached a level 77% above prewar production. Planned expansion was exceeded in most branches, but in electric power, light industry, and the foodstuffs industry, production fell just below the targets set, although in these branches too there was a great expansion.

Here are further points from the report:

Private industrial production rose particularly rapidly in the second half of 1953, following the announcement of the new Government programme with more emphasis on consumer goods. Private firms, mostly turning out consumer goods, increased production by one-fifth, and craftsmen by one quarter in the second half of the year.

Sales of meat went up by one quarter in the second half of 1953 compared with the first half, and sales of fat went up 40%.

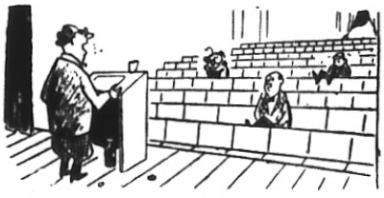
Agricultural cooperatives now cultivate 13% of the area of the German Democratic Republic. Special credits have been extended to the cooperatives to improve stabling.

More than 600 new libraries were opened during 1953 in towns and villages of the Republic. Other new installations included 1505 youth clubs and 1600 general club rooms.

East German publishers produced 8224 new books during 1953 in editions totalling 105 million.

Nursery schools and creches in towns provided accomodation for 41,000 more children than in the previous year. Country day nurseries, provided in all villages with agricultural production cooperatives, looked after 72,000 children.

IN WEST GERMANY



"And the title of my lecture is: Why are people so interested in a new Wehrmacht?"

(From "Nuernberger Nachrichten", West Germany)

SEEING FOR THEMSELVES

A total of 78 different workers' delegations from West Germany visited East German factories, holiday homes and other places of interest in the 14 weeks between mid-October 1953 and the end of January 1954.

The 672 workers, mostly trade unionists, who made up the delegations, had a chance to see for themselves how the workers in East Germany are running their own factories.

PLAN FOR GERMAN RE-UNIFICATION

Soviet Proposals Made on February 4th 1954

1. The formation of a provisional all-German Government by the Parliaments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic with wide participation of democratic organizations shall be considered an urgent task.

The Provisional all-German Government can be set up in place of the existing Governments of Eastern and Western Germany or, should this prove difficult at present, with these Governments being maintained for a certain period of time.

2. The principal task of the Provisional all-German Government shall be the preparation for and the holding of all-German elections, i. e.:

a) To prepare a draft all-German electoral law that would ensure a genuinely democratic character of the all-German elections, participation in the elections of all democratic organizations and the carrying out of the elections under conditions of genuine freedom which would preclude pressure upon voters by big monopolies.

b) To verify, should they consider this to be advisable, the existence throughout Germany of conditions necessary for holding democratic elections and to take measures to provide such conditions.

c) To hold free all-German elections as a result of which the German people, without the interference of foreign powers, shall decide upon the social and state structure of a democratic Germany and on the basis of which an all-German Government shall be formed.

3. The tasks of an all-German Government shall also be the following:

a) To represent Germany during the preparation of a peace treaty and in international organizations;

b) To prevent the involving of Germany in coalitions or military alliances directed against any power which participated with its armed forces in the war against Hitler Germany;

c) Matters pertaining to German citizenship;

d) To ensure freedom of activity for democratic parties and organizations and to prevent the existence of fascist, militaristic and other organizations hostile to democracy and the cause of peace;

e) To develop economic, trade and cultural relations between Eastern and Western Germany; matters pertaining to transport, post and telegraph communications, freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout Germany and other matters affecting the interests of the German people as a whole.

4. In order to ensure for the German people the right to manage their national affairs themselves, it shall be recommended to the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Government of the German Federal Republic to call promptly a meeting of plenipotentiary representatives of Eastern and Western Germany in order to agree upon the procedure to be followed in the formation of the Provisional all-German Government, its composition, functions, tasks and powers,.

5. The Governments of the Soviet Union, France, the United Kingdom and the USA, for their part, shall take measures to create conditions which will contribute to the successful fulfillment by the Provisional all-German Government of its tasks and which will preclude any interference and pressure by foreign powers during the all-German elections. To this end the Governments of the Four Powers have agreed to withdraw the occupation forces from the territory of both Eastern and Western Germany even p ior to the elections with the exception of limited contingents left to perform protective functions arising out of tasks of control by the Four Powers: for the USSR in regard to Eastern Germany and for the USA, the United Kingdom and France in regard to Western Germany.

NEUTRALISING GERMANY

Soviet Plan Presented to Big Four Conference, February 10th

1. The Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the USA and the USSR undertake to continue their efforts to reach an adequate settlement of the German problem in accordance with the principle of maintaining peace and national freedom and also to observe the rights of all other European states interested in preventing any state from violating their national interests and security.

2. Pending the conclusion of a Peace Treaty with Germany and the reunification of Germany along democratic and peaceful lines the following measures shall be carried out:

a) The occupation forces shall be withdrawn simultaneously from the territory of both Eastern and Western Germany within a period of six months with the exception of limited contingents left to perform protective functions arising out of the control tasks of the Four Powers: the USSR in regard to Eastern Germany and the USA, the United Kingdom and France in regard to Western Germany.

The strength of such contingents shall be agreed upon by the Governments of the Four Powers.

b) The powers which at present are exercising occupation functions in Germany shall have the right to move in their forces in case the security of either part of Germany is threatened: the USSR in regard to Eastern Germany, the USA, the United Kingdom and France in regard to Western Germany.

c) For the purpose of maintaining internal order and defence of frontiers the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic shall have police units the strength and armaments of which shall be determined by agreement among the four powers.

3. In accordance with the above provisions the implementation of which shall assure the neutralisation of Germany and the creation of conditions favourable to the settlement of the German problem in the interests of consolidating peace in Europe, the Four Powers shall take urgent steps to facilitate the conclusion of a 50-year Treaty on Collective Security among the European States which will provide for appropriate guarantees against aggression and the violation of peace in Europe. To this end the Four Powers have agreed to take the initiative of convening an appropriate conference of European states.

BERLIN CONFERENCE LOG (2)

February 2nd:

Dulles refuses to allow representatives of East and West Germany to be heard at the conference.

Dulles, Bidault and Eden reject Soviet draft peace treaty, without entering into discussion of details.

February 3rd:

Molotov demonstrates that the Bonn and Paris Treaties lay down specifically that the whole of a future re-united Germany should be incorporated in the "European Army".

Molotov suggests that a plebiscite might be held, in which all Germans would be given the chance to choose between the Bonn and Paris Treaties, or a real peace treaty.

February 4th:

Molotov submits his plan for re-uniting Germany through the formation of a provisional government from the existing East and West German parliaments; the withdrawal of all occupation troops with the exception of small control contingents; subsequent all-German free elections under German control. (Full text of Molotov's proposals on page 26).

Introducing his plan, Molotov emphasises that so-called "free elections" in which militarists and big business had the decisive say had brought Hitler to power in 1933, and that steps must be taken to see to it that this was not repeated. "The blood of millions of our brothers and sisters must remind us of our duty to ensure that such fascists do not again use parliamentary means to come to power."

Dulles charged that Molotov's plan was "calculated to extend the system of the East German Republic to the whole of Germany".

February 5th:

Dulles: "I can still find no encouraging interpretation of what we heard yesterday afternoon."

Eden: "We find the Soviet delegation's proposals quite unacceptable."

Bidault: "The propositions of the Soviet delegation were devoid of all possibilities of practical application."

Molotov states that despite the negative nature of some of the remarks made by the western foreign ministers, the Soviet delegation was in favour of continuing the search for a solution.

February 6th:

Molotov proposes that all four occupying powers should cancel all reparations owed by both halves of Germany; should cancel all post-war debts, except those arising from trade; and should cut occupation costs to five percent of the budget.

February 8th:

Closed meeting of the Foreign Ministers, at which questions affecting the lessening of world tension were discussed. The results of the discussion were not made public.

February 9th:

Molotov proposes again that Germans from East and West should come together to help solve the German problem: "East and West Germany have different forms of state, that is true; but our states too have quite different forms, yet we come together round the conference table."

Turning to the European Army Plan, Molotov states: "The restoration of German militarism will not help to secure peace, but to prepare a new war.".

February 10th:

Molotov proposes that all occupation troops should be withdrawn from both parts of Germany within six months, apart from small contingents of supervisory troops; East and West Germany should be allowed police units, the size and armament of which would be determined by the Four Powers.

(Full details on page 26.)

These new proposals should neutralise Germany, and provide a basis for settling the German problem, Molotov states.

Molotov also introduced a detailed plan for collective security in Europe.

(Full details on page 28.)

February 11th:

Closed meeting of the Foreign Ministers, at which questions affecting the lessening of world tension were discussed.

February 12th, 13th, 14th:

Foreign Ministers discuss the Austrian question.

February 15th:

Bidault and Eden criticise various points in the Soviet plans introduced on February 10th.

Molotov replies: "We are ready to consider amendments to the points criticised, and to make changes if necessary. We must ask you for a clear answer to the basic question, however: Is the conception of collective security in Europe acceptable in itself? If the Soviet plan for collective security is insufficient, then it would be useful to have other proposals to attain this end."

Molotov also makes it clear that the Soviet delegation is ready to consider amendments to the plan for withdrawing occupation troops and neutralising Germany.

30 SECOND ROUND-UP

SOVIET PROPOSAL	*WESTERN REPLY*
East and West Germans should participate in Conference (January 29th)	"NO"
Peace Conference with Germany by October 1954; German armed forces to be limited to defence purposes (February 1st)	"NO"
All-German Plebiscite on question "EDC or Peace Treaty?" (February 3rd)	"NO"
Form All-German Government to supervise free elections; occupation troops to leave before elections (February 4th)	"NO"
Reduction of Occupation costs to 5% of budget, cancellation of post-war debts (February 6th)	"NO"
Germany to be neutralised; occupation troops to leave within six months; Four Power control of strength of East and West Police (February 10th)	"NO"
Conclusion of All-Europe Security Pact, with participation of both halves of Germany (February 10th)	"NO"

Soviet Draft of Collective Security Treaty for Europe

With a view to safeguarding peace and security and preventing aggression against any state in Europe,

with a view to strengthening international co-operation in conformity with the principles of respect for the independence and sovereignty of states and of non-interference in their internal affairs,

seeking to prevent the formation of groups of European states directed against other European states, which gives rise to friction and strained relations among nations, and to achieve concerted action by all European states in safeguarding collective security in Europe,

the states of Europe, guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, shall conclude a General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe containing the following basic provisions:

1. The Treaty shall be open to all European states without regard to their social systems, which recognize the purposes and assume the obligations arising out of the Treaty.

Pending the establishment of a united, pacific, democratic German state the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic can be Parties to the Treaty enjoying equal rights. It is understood that after the unification of Germany the united German state can become a party to the Treaty on the general terms.

The conclusion of the Treaty on Collective Security in Europe shall not impair the jurisdiction of the four powers — the USSR, the USA, the United Kingdom and France — in regard to the German problem which is to be settled in the manner previously determined by the Four Powers.

2. The Parties to the Treaty undertake to refrain from any attacks against one another and also to refrain from having recourse to the threat or the use of force in their international relations and, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to settle by peaceful means and in such a way as not to endanger international peace and security in Europe any dispute that may arise among the nations.

3. The Parties to the Treaty shall consult among themselves whenever, in the view of any one of them, there shall arise the danger of an armed attack in Europe against any one or more of the Parties to the Treaty, in order to take effective steps to remove the danger and to maintain security in Europe.

4. An armed attack in Europe against any one or more of the Parties to the Treaty by any state or group of states shall be considered an attack against all the Parties. In case of such attack each one of the Parties, in the exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence, shall assist the state or states which had been so attacked by all the means at its disposal, including the use of armed force, for the purpose of restablishing and maintaining international peace and security in Europe.

5. The Parties undertake jointly to discuss and determine at an early date the procedure under which assistance, including military assistance, shall be rendered by the Parties to the Treaty in case there should arise in Europe a situation requiring a collective effort for the re-establishment and maintenance of peace in Europe.

6. The Parties shall immediately send to the Security Council of the United Nations, in conformity with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, information concerning the activities undertaken or in contemplation in the exercise of the right of self-defence or for the purpose of maintaining peace and security in Europe.

7. The Parties undertake not to take part in any coalition or alliance or conclude any agreement the purposes of which would contradict the purposes of the Treaty on Collective Security in Europe.

8. For the purpose of holding the consultations among the Parties provided for by the Treaty and of considering the matters arising out of the problem of safeguarding security in Europe, the following shall be provided for:

a) the holding of periodical and, whenever required, of special conferences at which each of the states shall be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative;

b) the establishment of a permanent consultative political committee whose task shall be the drafting of appropriate recommendations for the governments of the Parties;

c) the establishment of a military consultative body whose terms of reference shall be determined in due course.

9. Recognizing the special responsibility of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Parties shall invite the Governments of the USA and the Chinese People's Republic to send their representatives to the bodies set up under the Treaty, as observers.

10. The present Treaty shall not impair in any way the obligations contained in the international treaties and agreements among the European states the principles and purposes of which are in conformity with the principles and purposes of the present Treaty.

11. The duration of the Treaty shall be 50 years.

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THOSE PHONEY RIOTS

By George Wheeler

I attended a highly unusual and very informative press conference in Berlin on February 12th.

The German Committe for Unity had called together about 150 workers and housewives from all the alleged "centers of unrest" in the German Democratic Republic and invited the Western correspondents to question them as to actual conditions in their factories and towns.

The meeting opened with Albert Norden, State Secretary for the Committee, holding up a copy of the London "Daily Express" dated February 9th and reading the headline, "East Zone Boiling up". Most of the workers laughed, but at the same time they were very indignant.

Mr. Norden explained that the spate of stories about unrest in the German Democratic Republic was part of the attempt to offset the very favourable impression that the proposals of Mr. Molotov had made in all of Germany, both East and West.

He said there had never been such a good reception of the policies and program of the German Democratic Republic as in the last few days. Now the task of the Western press and radio was to help to break up the conference, but to give the impression that the failure was due to the Soviet delegation.

This explains why the reaction of the workers and housewives was so explosive when some questions were raised. One smelter worker from Hennigsdorf said, in a tone which left no doubts as to his feelings, that if the workers of his mill got their hands on some of the liars who were writing for the West German press they might toss them into their furnace.. at least it might help take some of the sulphur off the walls!

Herr Dietrich from West Berlin, correspondent of the North West German Radio, asked if it was true that agitators in the factories had said that a "free election is fascism"! At least a dozen workers were on their feet asking to answer him, and before the meeting was over most of them had managed to get their licks in on the question.

All of them wanted free elections, but they did not want "free elections" which would bring them fascism as they had once before. They wanted no "free elections" in which General Kesselring and his storm troopers helped to ruin the show; they wanted no "free elections" which would enable the Ruhr monopolists to take over their factories. "How stupid does Adenauer think we are?" one of them asked.

Magdeburg had been mentioned in several of the western press stories as a "center of unrest". Half a dozen men had come from there, but the only unrest they could report was anger at the newspaper reports.

Herr Wendhaus, worker from the Thaelmann Works, formerly owned by Krupp, said they had rebuilt the plant from the ashes left by American bombers, and they would smash with their hammers any hand that tried to take their plant from them.

Many of those who spoke said that they were "non-party" men, but they approved of Molotov's program, and they thought that most Germans who had a chance to learn about it also liked it. It provided for the withdrawal of foreign troops and a peace treaty this year without reparations — and that sounded good to them. One little man got up, saying he was a Socialist Unity Party propagandist, and waving a West Berlin newspaper, he said: "The lies in here are the best propaganda I have. They help in the political development of the workers!"

Several of the workers asked the Western reporters to tell where they got their stories, with no response. Finally Helga Bach, a pretty red-headed stenographer from a typewriter factory in Saxony demanded: "Why don't you answer?" There was silence for some time. Then a woman reporter for the New York "Staatszeitung" asked if she could get a visa "to see what the Communist dominated Soviet Zone was like." A real outburst greeted this insult. The workers made it clear that they did not feel dominated by anybody and did not intend to let the capitalists do it! They pointed out that no Communist could get a visa to her country and that it was not the Soviet Zone she was in, but the German Democratic Republic.

Perhaps the biggest laugh came when the workers were asked if it were true that the rest of East Germany had been stripped to build up the food displays on the Stalin Allee in East Berlin. Perhaps there was a little exaggeration and local pride in the reply of the Dresden man that they had **more** consumer goods there. Frau Barbara West, a housewife from Halle, said that her 11-months-old baby weighed 24 pounds and that she could buy bananas or anything else that was available in Berlin for her children. She added that she did not belong to any party, that there had been many discussions of the Big Four Conference by the workers in Halle, and that as far as she knew there was no need for any pressure to be brought on anybody to support the Soviet proposals. The people liked them.

The workers were steamed up and willing to talk for a long time, but there was a strange lack of questions from the western reporters who a short time before had been saying that they would "like to meet some real German workers." Now they were trying to leave the hall as inconspicuously as possible! They did not like the kind of "unrest" that they found here.

"Berlin, Feb. 8 — Reports of demonstrations, riots and troop movements in East Germany flooded West Berlin today, but authoritative sources believe the rumours are groundless.

"Reliable informants reaching Berlin today from a number of East German industrial areas reported all quiet there.

"... The Berlin rumours are attributed by sceptical journalists to wishful thinking, to journalistic competition as news from the conference becomes thin, and possibly to psychological warfare efforts."

"New York Times", February 9th 1954

* * *

"The East German Government allowed me to take a car ride yesterday 150 miles deep into this country to check for myself on Western reports of unrest, disturbances and extraordinary security measures.

"The only firm conclusions I could draw from my visit were these:

If there had been disturbances and if there is unrest at Leuna or Halle I saw not the slightest sign of them. If extraordinary measures have been taken against the eventuality of riots and sabotage, I saw no sign of them."

Gary Levy,
Reuter's Special Correspondent,
Berlin, February 10th 1954

INTERVIEW WITH AN ACTIVIST

By Allen Mann

The author of this article is a young American worker from New England, who was drafted into the U. S. Army and sent to West Germany for service with the occupation troops. He was granted political asylum in the German Democratic Republic, and works in a factory here. "Allen Mann" is a pseudonym.

"Yes, of course, I'll tell you about our plant. But why not walk home with me, where we can sit down and chat?"

The invitation came from my fellow-worker and new friend, Kurt Rieger, an old experienced worker, respected and honoured for his long service in our plant, the LOWA railroad car-building factory. We crossed the little bridge over the Spree to his pleasant home, surrounded by neat flower beds and well-groomed cherry, peach and plum trees. We settled down in the warm kitchen, where ...s wife, busy preparing dinner, could join in.

"What do you want to know about LOWA?", he asked. "I can't tell you too much about the 'ancient' history, but you can write down that the firm was founded more than a hundred years ago, with less than thirty workers — now it has over three thousand.

"It belonged before 1945 to the Nazi war-criminal Flick, but after the war all his property in our zone of Germany was given to the people. I believe he's running around free in West Germany now, making plans to take back his old properties here.

"But he won't succeed! You can write that down too," he added earnestly. "He won't ever get LOWA back, because our workers would never let it be taken away from them. There have been so many changes, so many improvements, that even the stupidest can see the way things are going. We have plenty left to do, it's true.

"But especially now, in these last few month, the price cuts, income tax cut, wage raises and new goods show the results of our hard work. Believe me, we're stronger and firmer than ever before in the belief that this factory and all other factories in the German Democratic Republic will always belong to us!"

"What are some of the differences between LOWA and Flick's old 'Busch Fabrik?'" I asked.

"The first thing that occurs to me is not really very important," he said. "It's our new loudspeaker system. Every morning when we get to the factory gates, we hear its cheery music. Somehow it takes the sting out of the thought — 'another work-day'. It's pleasant, too, at lunchtime, to hear music or an interesting program.

"More important are our health installations. In the old days, accident cases had to be sent all the way into town to the hospital. Now we have our own doctor, nurses and dentist, with x-rays, ultra-violet ray and other treatments. Anyone can go at any time for advice or treatment.

"If he needs a specialist, he's sent to one without loss of pay. If sickness keeps him from work, he gets 90% of his pay until he can return. Medicine is free. It's all completely different from the old days.

"Another new advantage is our lunch-room with hot mid-day meals at very cheap prices."

Kurt's son and recently married daughter, both working at LOWA, came in to see what was going on and were soon butting in on us.

"How about the barber-shop and ladies' hairdresser?" asked his pretty daughter Ilse. "Many a time I've been able to get ready for an evening out without going into town. I'm sure they didn't have those services in the old days."

Son Paul, in his Free German Youth jacket, told about the sport movement at the LOWA. With over 800 members, it includes everything from ping-pong to skiing and a very successful soccer team. A new playing field was recently completed, and other sport facilities are being added.

"Before 1945 there was absolutely no sport activity at the LOWA", said Kurt.

Since this was all being peppered at me in German and I was trying to take notes in English, I soon fell behind. But I did manage to jot down a few more points: the newly completed kindergarten and nursery for the children of working mothers; the very cheap union-sponsored holiday homes in the mountain and seaside resorts, the big free lending library, the plans for a clubhouse which will also be the headquarters for the many factory culture groups — the youth chorus, folk dance group, drama group, literature circle and the dance, brass and accordion bands. It need hardly be said that none of this existed in the old days.

These plans have not all been carried out yet, but a clear picture arises of a new type of factory, where the owners, the workers themselves, do everything to make the conditions of work as easy, comfortable and pleasant as possible and also to infuse a new pride in labour. Eventually the thought, "another day in the factory" will lose the ugly ring it always had for previous generations.

Kurt interrupted my musings.

"None of these new-won gains should be forgotten, not even the barbershop", he said. "But what is perhaps most important of all is the general atmosphere in our LOWA plant today. What we're slowly approaching is a factory where everybody is held together by a friendly regard for each other, and a desire to do our best towards making life better for us all.

"There is no more the terrible hate and fear we had before of the foreman or boss, who had it in his power to give us poorer paid work or fire us. No more is the fear of mass lay-offs, which always troubled us. We are slowly becoming a community of equals without our old fears and insecurities.

"Our workers are learning that a rise in productivity, when we own the factory, doesn't mean more 'back-breaking', lowered piece-rates and quicker lay-offs; it means less drudgery, more products and eventually lower prices. And, of course, with better personal health and safety than ever before. Then for everyone, especially for the youth, there is the chance to learn and study, anything from guitar-playing to book-keeping or engineering. Every chance for advancement is ours!"

At a reminder from his wife, Kurt went on: "No, Lotte, I haven't forgotten the women, either. The women today are paid equally and are helped forward in their trade or in new skills, and their rights are strictly

(cont. at bottom of p. 31)

FRAU MUSCHIOLIK & "FREE ELECTIONS"

When Frau Hilde Muschiolik, of West Germany, hears western statemen talking very grandly about "free elections", she laughs rather bitterly in the cell in which she is today serving a nine-month sentence for participating in "free political activity" in West Germany.

On November 9th 1952, the electors of the little town of Brueggen, near Cologne, only a few miles from the West German capital of Bonn, elected Frau Muschiolik as member of the town council, as a representative of the Communist Party.

In September 1953 the police suddenly arrested her for distributing amongst her electorate the "Programme for German National Reunification" issued by the Communist Party. It must be emphasised that the only thing charged against her is that she had distributed this programme, the legally published programme of a party which is legal in West Germany, the party which she represents on the town council.

On January 22nd 1954 the Cologne Provincial High Court sentenced Frau Muschiolik to nine months imprisonment, after finding her guilty of "preparing to commit treasonable acts". The only evidence brought against her was that she had distributed the programme described above.

In addition, the court ordered that Frau Muschiolik should be barred from voting or holding electoral office for a period of five years: she is thus excluded forthwith from the town council to which she was elected.

(All this happened in the British Zone of Germany. On January 29th, just one week after Frau Muschiolik was sent to prison for nine months, British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden presented his "Five Point Plan for Free German Elections" to the Berlin Conference. One point in this plan called for "immunity of candidates; freedom from arbitrary arrest or victimisation; ... free circulation of newspapers, periodicals, etc."

Perhaps Mr. Eden could take the first step by seeing to it that these conditions are enforced in the British Zone.)

(cont. from p. 30)

protected, especially those concerning women becoming mothers or with families.

"All in all, for men, women and younger workers, a new kind of life is beginning. Yes, we do still have grumbling and difficulties, and the biggest jobs are yet to be done, but we are the ones who will settle these problems. We don't want the Flicks back to try the old ways. We had enough of depressions and bombings.

"As for me, I'm 56 now. I had to support myself and help the family when I was eleven. I was fired once at eighteen years, just the age of Paul here, because I joined a 'left' union instead of the company union as my foreman wanted. And that wasn't the only time I was out of work. For five years during the depression we had nothing. Then we had strikes and lock-outs. Worst of all, we had two world wars. Is it any wonder, that I and the whole family are ready to defend our gains and our future? Our people will never give up what we have won during these last years of heavy, difficult labour."

These parting words were said with a force and determination that left no room for question. The new life, slowly being forged in the German Democratic Republic, cannot fail of successful achievement with such ardent defenders as this hard-working assembly worker and his family.

WERE THEY FREE?

Sidelights on the West German elections on September 6th 1953, which produced a majority for Adenauer and his right-wing partners:

Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party received election subsidies of more than 40 million marks, according to figures published by the West German Social Democratic Party.

Between June 19th and June 30th alone, twelve election meetings of the Communist Party and the left-wing "League of Germans" were banned by the police.

The Lord Mayor of Ludwigshafen ordered that no municipal hoardings or buildings might be hired by Communists for electoral purposes.

In Kiel police seized all the electoral propaganda of the League of Germans, although it was legally printed.

In Dortmund the courts passed sentences averaging one year each on 13 young left-wingers who organised an electoral demonstration.

One Communist Party official was murdered, and dozens more were seriously injured in the course of the election campaign.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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West German Publishers Oppose Fascist Literature

The leading West German publishers, who form the editorial board of the trade paper "Boersenblatt für den Buchhandel" have refused to publish the advertisements of various firms which are turning out openly fascist literature once again.

"Our paper is not obliged to publish advertisements which have the sole aim of undermining democracy by exploiting democratic liberties, in exactly the same way as they did between 1930 and 1933", the chairman of the editorial board, Herr Schulte-Bumke, Frankfurt publisher, stated.

He was explaining why the paper had refused to accept advertisements for the book "Waffen SS im Einsatz" by former SS General Hausser.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The West German police are at present hunting a man named Dr. Ludwig Krueger because he is **not** a war criminal.

I am used to many things from West Germany, but I must admit that this news astonished me somewhat. This is how it all happened:

One day in the middle of November last year, a man of distinguished military bearing presented himself at the city hall in Cologne, and asked to speak to a responsible official.

When he was ushered in to the office of one of the leading members of the city administration, he bowed politely, looked round to make sure that they were alone, and then said in a confiding voice: "My name is Dr. Ludwig Krueger. I am a German officer. I was sentenced to death by the French for so-called war crimes, and then my sentence was reduced to life imprisonment. I have just managed to escape from prison. I need papers, money and letters of recommendation immediately. Can you help me?"

The otherwise bureacratic city machinery sprang into action with startling rapidity, and within a few hours "Dr. Krueger" had been provided with all he needed. Probably dozens of officials had to be let into the secret, but the process of re-nazification has already gone so far in West Germany that not one of these dozens thought of turning this self-confessed murderer over to the police for deportation back to his imprisonment in France. Even if the police had been notified, they would almost certainly not have done anything.

But then, somehow, it became known that Dr. Krueger was **not** a convicted war criminal, but simply a common or garden swindler. Since this date, the police have been busy looking for him.

"Glasgow, England"

The London Sunday newspaper "Reynold's News" on January 25th published a short note in a column signed by Peter Cairns about the local department of education in an unnamed town in East Germany. This department of education had posted a book to Britain, addressing it to "Glasgow, England".

Mr. Cairns is of course quite right in criticising this unintentional slight to Scotland, and if he will let me have the name and address of the department concerned I shall be glad to take the matter up with them. But what particularly interested me about the note was Mr. Cairns' comment: "The Russians need to smarten up their geography."

There are two mistakes here. Firstly of course, there are no "Russians" in any branch of the local or national administration of the German Democratic Republic. Secondly, referring to "Russians" when what is obviously meant is citizens of the Soviet Union is just as incorrect as talking of "Glasgow, England."

(Laughter)

From the London "Times" report of the debate in the House of Commons on arrangements made to retrain nazi pilots in Britain, February 3rd, 1954:

Mr. Bowles (Nuneaton, Labour) asked whether the Under-Secretary was aware that Vickers at Brooklands had been bombed . . . by a German who had learned to fly there . . . and that later in the war Miles aircraft at Reading had been bombed by a German who had learned to fly there.

Mr. Dodds-Parker (Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, Conservative) said he hoped that would not occur again. (Laughter).

Perhaps this is a good time for a little self-criticism. I was horrified to discover, a few weeks ago, that some copies of GERMAN REPORT were going out to "Glasgow, England" as the result of an excess of zeal, and deficiency of geography, on the part of the man who makes the stencils for the addressing machine.

My humble apologies. And if by some horrid chance your copy of GERMAN REPORT is going out addressed to "Pink Toad" when you really live in Rink Road, then remember that the man who makes the stencils does not read a word of English.

We shall be glad to correct the stencil immediately if you send back the envelope with the corrections clearly marked.

Lie

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, at a meeting on January 7th 1954, very understandably drew attention to the rise of neo-nazism in West Germany. The committee however went on to state that according to details which it had received "several well-known nazis are Ministers in the East German Government".

This is a downright lie. All the ministers of the East German Government are active anti-nazis who took part in the fight against Hitler.

I have written to the Board of Deputies, asking for a withdrawal of this statement, and challenging them to produce the name of any members of the East German Government who were nazis. It will be interesting to see what happens.

What is EDC?

Anybody who wants to get a quick grasp of what the European Defence Community is, and the danger which it represents should read the pamphlet "EDC — The Shadow of a Gunman", just published by the Union of Democratic Control, 21 Strutton Ground, London S. W. 1.

In ten pages packed with facts, the author, Basil Davidson, shows you how the idea of West German rearmament began in May 1945, when Hitler's successor Admiral Doenitz, told Germans over the radio:

"Our political line is very clear. We must go along with the Western Powers and work with them in the occupied territories in the west, for only by working with them can we have hopes of later retrieving our land from the Russians".

It is a pamphlet which everyone interested in Germany should read.

Correspondent Lays Egg

What was the correspondent of the London "Daily Mail" doing during the Berlin Conference? I do not know what he was doing on other days, but on February 2nd he was ignoring the Foreign Ministers, and was out collecting the world shaking news which appeared in his paper next day under the headline "DANCING SPIDER LAYS 1,000 EGGS".

I think it is my favourite headline of the conference.

Crack of the Week

Some cannibals in New Guinea were worried about the rapid decrease in the numbers of their tribe, and they asked a passing missionary what to do.

"Stop eating each another" said the missionary.

"This man is a dirty Communist", said the cannibal chief.

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